



World Food Programme

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# WFP Central African Republic Country Brief

July 2022



## Operational Context

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a landlocked country with a population of 6.1 million people. Though the Government is working on a long recovery process since the major security crisis in 2013, a resurgence of the country's longstanding conflicts was seen after recent elections that led to further displacements and increased humanitarian needs. There are over 1.9 million displaced people within CAR and in neighbouring countries, including 610,265 internally displaced persons.

The updated **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in CAR for April – August 2022** confirmed a total of 2.2 million people facing high acute food insecurity, including 638,000 people in Emergency (Phase 4). These figures remain among the highest CAR has ever seen. In the country, 45 sub-prefectures and 3 arrondissements of Bangui are classified as Phase 3 (Crisis), of which 22 are on the verge of falling into Phase 4 (Emergency), in addition to the 22 sub-prefectures already classified in Phase 4.

Situated on a fertile plateau and abundant in water resources, CAR has considerable agricultural potential. It also has a wealth of mineral resources. However, due to the multifaceted challenges, relevant socio-economic development indicators in CAR show a bad standing with 71 percent of the population living under the international poverty line (USD 1.90 per day).

WFP operations are focused on life-saving interventions to improve food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable crisis-affected people while addressing root causes of vulnerability over the longer term, strengthening capacities and systems for prevention and resilience to future shocks, including climate shocks. WFP is using satellite imagery data for remote sensing on hard-to-reach area and mobile vulnerability analysis mapping data to monitor Food Security trend and food prices on the market. WFP has been present in CAR since 1969.



Population: **6.1 million**

Income Level: **Low income**

Human Development Index 2021: **188 out of 189**

Chronic malnutrition: **38% of children aged 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**1,582 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 3.7 m** cash-based transfers made

**USD 67.3 m** six-month (Aug. 2022 – Jan. 2023) net funding requirements

616,070 **people assisted** in July 2022



## Operational Updates

- WFP delivers food and nutrition assistance through its general food distributions (GFD), school feeding, nutrition and resilience-building activities in the Central African Republic (CAR). In July, out of the **616,070 people** assisted, 68 percent were residents, and 22 percent were internally displaced persons (IDPs), the remaining were refugees and returnees.
- Cash-based transfers scale-up:** WFP is scaling up the cash-based transfer (CBT) modality to cope with current gaps and challenges in food supplies. The scale-up is planned for July – November 2022. Working with nine cooperating partners, WFP plans to distribute immediate cash and e-vouchers in ten subprefectures, including Bangui. Overall, in July, USD 3.7 million were distributed to 367,275 beneficiaries (+ 97 percent compared to June). WFP provided food vouchers for nutritional assistance to 4,753 people, including people living with HIV (PLHIV) on antiretroviral therapy in Bangui, Yaloke, and Bria.
- General food distributions:** 465,701 people received unconditional food assistance or cash transfers in July 2022. WFP and UNHCR jointly distributed food to 662 returnees from Cameroon and DRC. WFP in CAR is facing a scarcity of in-kind resources, leading to the distribution of half rations in all general food distribution activities since February 2022.
- Nutrition:** Nutritional assistance for the prevention of malnutrition resumed after a two-month interruption: 22,020 children aged 6-23 months received 102 of specialized nutritious food. WFP and the Ministry of Health provided an integrated package for the treatment of malnutrition to 14,616 children with MAM aged 6-59 months and anti-retroviral treatment (ART) clients. The preparation of the National Nutrition Survey based on the SMART methodology is ongoing and will assess the nutritional situation (prevalence and coverage) in all the Prefectures of the country.
- School feeding:** School feeding activities ended in June due to the holiday season: during the 2021-2022 school year, 586 mt of food were distributed to 143,413 school children. WFP continues to support the development of the National School Feeding strategy. In August, school meals were distributed to 4,016 children in crisis-affected families and 34,016 school children, all taking vacation classes, and to girls who passed their end-of-year exams, to encourage girls' school enrolment in CAR.
- Resilience and livelihoods:** 75,625 people received food assistance for asset creation (FFA). In July, the CBT scale-up allowed the transfer of USD 683,948 (+ 168 percent compared to June) for FFA activities, in addition to the 11.1 mt of food distributed. Preparation for the implementation of the *Projet de Réponse d'Urgence à la Crise Alimentaire en Centrafrique* (PRUCAC) is underway with cooperating partners.
- The first **Protection Analysis Update (PAU) in CAR** highlights the critical household impoverishment and deterioration of access to essential services: 9 out of 10 households use negative coping strategies, and one-third adopt emergency strategies that put them at risk. Recommendations encourage strengthening the response to sexual and gender-based violence, promoting respect for international humanitarian law, reinforcing the protection of children, and protecting the livelihood of IDPs.

**Contact info:** [vigno.hounkanli@wfp.org](mailto:vigno.hounkanli@wfp.org) ; [camille.pointg@wfp.org](mailto:camille.pointg@wfp.org)

**Country Director:** Peter SCHALLER

**Further information:** [www.wfp.org/countries/central-african-republic](http://www.wfp.org/countries/central-african-republic)

**Photo caption:** WFP cash-distribution

**Main photo credit:** WFP/Bruno DJOYO

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement 2022 (in USD)	Available Contributions 2022 (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>217.3 m</b>	<b>116.1 m*</b>	<b>67.3 m (61%)</b>

\* Representing 53 percent of the total requirement for 2022

## Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis-affected households and communities in targeted areas can meet their basic food and nutrition needs both during and in the aftermath of crises.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

## Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, children, pregnant, lactating women, and malnourished ART patients living in target regions, have an improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2020.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

## Activities:

- Implement BSFP for the prevention of MAM among children aged 6 to 59 months.
- Provide a comprehensive package for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition to children with MAM aged 6 to 59 months, PLW, girls and provide food by prescription to ART patients.
- Provide capacity strengthening to health district authorities, health centre staff and community health workers (CHW).
- Provide nutritious school meals to school children.

## Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Food-insecure women and men living in targeted areas of CAR have enhanced livelihoods to support the food security and nutrition needs of their households and communities by 2020.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

## Activities:

- Provide smallholder farmers with transfers to support asset creation and technical assistance to increase their access to markets, including purchases from WFP supported school meals.

## Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 4:** National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities to establish an adequate social protection system and manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2020.

**Focus area:** Root causes

## Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening in zero hunger policies, strategic planning, and delivery of programmes to public officials.
- Provide capacity strengthening to the government to establish a national social safety net platform.

## Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise, and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 5:** Humanitarian community (partners and donors) have enhanced capacity to reach and operate in areas of humanitarian crisis all year-round.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

## Activities:

- Provide common logistics and ICT services to the humanitarian community and the government
- Provide UNHAS services to all partners
- provide bilateral logistics services to partners for in-country supply chain for three health programmes (malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS)

## Common Humanitarian Services

- The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, connects Bangui to 31 destinations (2021). In July, UNHAS transported 906 passengers from 96 organizations and moved eight mt of light cargo. Critical fuel shortage and weather constraints impacted the UNHAS flight plans, and tonnage transported, limiting access to beneficiaries in certain areas (e.g., Birao, Obo, etc.).

## Logistics

- In July, WFP delivered 3,338 mt of commodities to cooperating partners and advanced delivery points to cater for upcoming months' response. 2,566 mt of commodities were received through the Douala corridor, where movements of trucks continue to improve. 2,778 mt of food were purchased locally. The fuel shortage combined with heavy rains affects the transport of commodities and the monitoring of activities. Birao remains inaccessible by road while prepositioning for Obo and Zemio is slowed by poor road conditions (heavy rains).

## Challenges

- CAR has been facing a **fuel shortage** since mid-March 2022 due to the combination of the off-season, scarcity of products on the market, and the globally increasing fuel price. This is impacting the supply chain and transport costs. At the end of July, WFP received the necessary fuel to implement its activities and to resume UNHAS' regular flight schedule until September. However, the situation remains critical for the population, which vulnerability is at risk of severe deterioration, leading to an early hunger gap.
- Around 6,000 households were affected by **flooding** in seven arrondissements of Bangui, in Bimbo and Begoua (surrounding areas) and cases were reported in Bangassou (south-west) and Paoua (north-west). The first assistance in priority areas in Bangui has begun (shelters, WASH, and NFI kits), while 2,000 people received assistance through the Rapid Response Mechanism in Bangassou. WFP plans to provide cash assistance to about 2,230 beneficiaries in Bangui and Begoua in August. The CAR Prime Minister established a crisis committee for emergency response. Unlike previous years, floods hit at the beginning of the rainy season while heavier rains are expected.
- The **security situation** severely hinders humanitarian access in the northwest, centre, and east. WFP activities are challenged by the restriction of movement in areas under the control of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA)/allied and armed groups, resulting in temporary suspensions of some operations and delays in food delivery. Continued movements of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) were reported in the same areas, suggesting their desire to retake control over areas previously under their control. Resulting clashes/crimes could lead to further displacements and affect humanitarian activities. WFP in CAR has concerns about the risk of armed conflicts related to transhumance season in the northwest, centre, and east, which would lead to further internal displacements.

## Funding

- WFP requires **USD 67.3 million** in the next six months (Aug 22 – Jan 23) to continue providing life-saving food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable people in CAR.
- Despite generous donor support, limited resources forced WFP in CAR to prioritize 1.02 million most vulnerable people (out of 1.2 million people in need). WFP is facing critical funding gap preventing WFP to implement adequate food and nutritional assistance.

## Donors

**Top five donors for WFP CAR ICSP 2018 – 2022:** USA, Germany, Canada, Japan and European Commission.

**Additional support has been provided by** UN Country-Based Pooled Funds, UN CERF, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, France and the Central African Republic.